

Appl. No. 10/664,621

Amdt. Dated March 17, 2005

Response to Final Office Action of January 19, 2005

REMARKS:

Applicants thank the examiner for the time and care taken in examining this application.

Amendments. Claims 1, 5, 6, and 10 have been amended and new claims 16-17 have been added. Support for the claim amendments presented above is found in the specification at, among other places, page 69, lines 15-17.

Section 103(a) Rejections. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and submit the following remarks in response thereto.

It is noted that, with respect to all of the originally filed claims 1-15, the invention was invented by all the inventors listed in the application, and the subject matter of the claims was commonly owned at the time the invention covered herein was made.

Applicants respectfully traverse the finding that the combined features of the claimed invention are disclosed in or suggested by the cited references. JP 08-155945 and Shibata do not disclose an arithmetic control circuit that restricts movement of a lens shape measuring device in an axial direction thereof. These references merely disclose a mechanism for moving the lens shape measuring device in its axial direction.

In addition, Tagnon discloses only a universal joint for slanting an eyeglass lens; in contrast to the claimed invention, Tagnon does not disclose the function of controlling clamping force for holding the eyeglass lens with a predetermined value.

Even assuming that the teachings of JP 08-155945 and Tagnon, or of JP08-155945, Tagnon and Shibata, could be combined to yield the claimed invention, the lens shape measuring

device resulting from such combination would be moved in its axial direction simultaneously when the eyeglass lens is slanted by the lens shape measuring device. Thus, it would be difficult for the device resulting from such combination to slant or rotate the eyeglass lens to be in a slanted position with precision.

It is respectfully submitted that the lens grinding processing devices disclosed in JP08-155945 and Shibata are conventional art in the field of the present invention, and such references neither disclose nor suggest the novel technical idea of the invention as claimed, namely the slanting of the eyeglass lens held between lens rotating shafts with the lens shape measuring device.

Furthermore, the structure for maintaining a state of holding the eyeglass lens in such a manner that the eyeglass lens is slanted at that state is not disclosed even in the lens retaining members of Shibata, and hence, the invention as claimed is distinguished over the combination of Shibata with the other cited art.

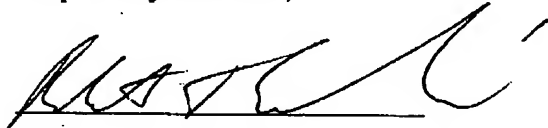
Accordingly, it is submitted that the claimed invention cannot be accomplished even when the teachings of JP08-155945 and Tagnon, or of JP08-155945, Tagnon and Shibata, are combined.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that there has not been established a prima facie case of obviousness, based on the criteria of: some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to combine or modify the references without application of impermissible hindsight; a reasonable expectation of success; and the prior art teaching or suggesting all of the claimed limitations.

It is submitted that the invention is presented in clear and concise patentable terms, that all objections and rejections have been properly addressed herein, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Prompt, favorable treatment of the application is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication, including fees for any necessary time extension, hereby requested, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0305. The Examiner is encouraged to call Robert J. Schneider at the direct number (312) 845-3919 with any questions that arise in connection with this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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